DOCUMENT RESUME

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TITLE	The Powers of the Feminine. Sacred Images of India and Southeast Asia. Teacher's Packet.
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NOTE	64p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118 ($25 includes 20 slides).
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DESCRIPTORS	Area Studies; Art; Art Education; *Art History; Elementary Secondary Education; *Females; Foreign Countries; Non Western Civilization; Painting (Visual Arts); *Religion Studies; Sculpture; Visual Arts
IDENTIFIERS	Asia (Southeast); Buddhist Art; Fertility Cults; Goddess (Concept); Hindu Art; India; Indian Art; Religious Art; *Southeast Asian Art

ABSTRACT

Sacred women have been portrayed throughout the history of India and Southeast Asia. Some were depicted as consorts to the Hindu gods and regarded as the necessary force that activates male energy. Other images arose out of local fertility cults and represented uncontrolled feminine energy that could be terrifying in aspect. The calmer Buddhist female was first seen as a participant in the life of the Buddha and then as goddess or consort to Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. The diversity of sculptures of females in the Asian Art Museum collection reveal regional preferences in goddess worship and in the ways women have been depicted. This packet provides resources for presenting these images. It includes the booklet, "Women Auspicious and Divine Images of Southeast Asia and India," which discusses regional cult images, Hindu goddesses, and Buddhist representations. The "Slide List" and "Slide Descriptions" introduce the 20 provided slides. The packet includes maps of India and Southeast Asia; a time line; line-drawn goddess figure illustrations; "Symbols or Attributes of the Gods"; "Symbolism of Some of the Weapons of the Goddess" with written descriptions; and a "Mandna Floor Painting" classroom activity. A "Vocabulary List" and "Bibliography" complete the packet. (MM)

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